

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 27-46 were pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 27 and 44 leaving claims 27-46 pending in the present application for the Examiner's consideration. Applicant avers that no new matter has been introduced in this response.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 27-45 under 35 USC §112, paragraph 1, rejected claims 27-45 under 35 USC §112, paragraph 2 as being indefinite and rejected claims 27-45 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,307, 487. Applicant notes that the Examiner did not address claim 46 that was before the Examiner and was submitted with the amendment filed November 5, 2004 and received November 8, 2004. Applicant requests consideration of claim 46.

§112, paragraph 2 Rejections and Double Patenting Rejection

The Applicant has amended claim 27 to more clearly recite the invention and clarify elements of the claim. Amendments to claim 27 are supported at least in paragraph [0134] of the specification as filed. In response to the double patenting rejection, Applicant submits that the enclosed terminal disclaimer overcomes that rejection and it should be withdrawn. Applicant submits that the rejections have been obviated and respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

Appl. No. 10/600,484
Amdt. dated May 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2004

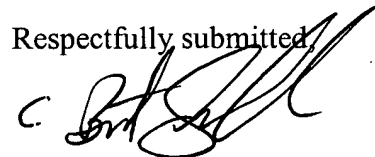
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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